



# Sam Brownback

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## News Release

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# HUTCHISON-BROWNBAC-ASHCROFT AMENDMENT GIVES MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX RELIEF

WASHINGTON – As part of the Senate tax bill (S. 1429), the Senate today passed an amendment sponsored by U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Sam Brownback and John Ashcroft, that would provide marriage penalty tax relief to millions of married couples across America.

“Today, the Senate has made an important statement,” Brownback said. “We need to stop taxing marriage. The government must not use the coercive power of the tax code to erode the foundation of our society.

“Marriage in America has enough difficulties without being penalized by the federal government. According to a recent Rutgers University study, marriage is already in a state of decline. From 1960 to 1996, the annual number of marriages per 1000 adult women declined by almost 43 percent. At the same time that fewer adults are getting married, far more young adults are cohabiting. In fact, between 1960 and 1998, the number of unwed cohabiting couples increased by 1000 percent.

“When marriage as an institution breaks down, children suffer. The past few decades have seen a huge increase in out-of-wedlock births and divorce. The combination of these two has substantially undermined the well-being of children in virtually all areas of life: physical and psychological health, socialization, academic achievement, and even the likelihood of suffering physical abuse.

“Study after study has shown that children do best when they grow up in a stable home, raised by both a mother and a father who are committed to each other through marriage. The last thing the federal government should do is penalize the institution that is the foundation of a civil society,” Brownback said.

The Hutchison-Brownback-Ashcroft legislation allows married couples to double the standard deduction. This helps alleviate the impact of the marriage penalty tax.

The marriage penalty tax affects 21 million couples, forcing them to pay on average, an additional \$1,400 per year in taxes.